

GENETICS AND BIOMETRY LABORATORY

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

Nc-4/871

OCT 15 1962

OCT 15 1962

BHUBANESWAR-3
ORISSA, INDIA

October 6, 1962

Dear Lederberg,

I don't know any book or article entitled "The beehive world". I certainly didn't write it myself. Anyway beehives swarm when they get too full. I wouldn't write on this topic. I was fool enough to believe the people who were worried by the falling birth rate around 1930. I think India is grossly undercultivated and underirrigated. I am not sure that it is overpopulated, though things would be easier if fewer babies were born.

Haldane

I have just moved here. And as soon as we can get apparatus we will start human genetics in a big way. Meanwhile we have begun. Meera Khan has got a population in a malarious area with 63% of males deficient for G.P.D. I trust him, as he put in 4 months with Siniscalco in Sardinia. Dronamraju has done color vision on 900 or so males on this side of India. Protanopia is about as frequent as in Europe, but deuteranopia is not appreciably commoner than protanopia.

In a year or so we should have something to show you. I also have a house of reasonable size. So you and your wife should come and stay with us. Till apparatus arrives, Jayakar and my wife are busy with wasps. They have, for the first time, the complete history of a small social wasps' nest, with life stories of about 100 individuals. The reason for its decline and fall is not quite obvious. But the terminal symptom was under-population apparently due to cannibalism of larvae. It looks as if they overdid their family planning! We also have lots of data on solitary wasps.

A stay here should last at least 4 days, as we have very fine architecture and sculpture

J.B.S. Haldane
(J.B.S. Haldane)

Prof. J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California
U. S. A.

Not a student of J.B.S. Haldane